

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A system and method for advertising, addressing, and/or accessing services in a distributed computing environment are provided. A service advertisement includes substantially all the information needed by a client to access a particular service. A service may publish the service advertisement in a space which stores documents such as eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents. The advertisement may include a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and an XML schema for the service. The schema specifies XML messages which are usable to invoke functions of the service. A client  
10 may access the space and read the advertisement. The client may use the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct a gate for access to the service. The client may send a first XML message to the service at the URI, wherein the first XML message is specified in the XML schema, to invoke one or more functions of the service. In response, the function(s) of the service may be invoked. The service may send a second  
15 XML message (e.g., a message including the results of the invoked function(s)) to the client, wherein the second XML message is specified in the XML schema for the service.

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